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I hereby centify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington,

D.C. on July 15, 2002.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Kirk WATKINS

Serial No.:

09/497,142

Filing Date:

February 3, 2000

For:

A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING A PAYROLL DEDUCTION CARD AS A PAYMENT INSTRUMENT

Examiner: Charles R. Kyle

Group Art Unit: 2164

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Technology Center 260

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows.

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GROUP 3600